

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A sheet transport mechanism, comprising:

a rotation roller;

a plurality of driven rollers which are arranged parallel to an axis of the rotation roller;

and

a plurality of sheet transport guides, each guiding toward the rotation roller, a sheet to be transported between the rotation roller and the driven rollers, each of the sheet transport guides including a torsion coil spring having a coil portion fixed to a frame, the frame extends along a path where the sheet is to be transported, wherein

the coil portion has a first arm portion which is arranged along the path so as to guide a reverse face of the sheet and extends to and is attached to a respective rotation shaft of one of the driven rollers and the coil portion has a second arm extending to and fixed to the frame, an end of the second arm extends away from the coil portion and the end of the second arm is fixed to the frame at a location along the path different from a location of the coil portion,

each of the sheet transport guides applies elastic force to each of the driven rollers so that each of the driven rollers is elastically biased toward the rotation roller, and

each elastic force applied to each of the sheet transport guides is different from each other with distance from a predetermined reference position.

2-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 1,  
wherein the predetermined reference position is located in a central part of the shaft of  
the rotation roller.

13. (Previously presented) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 1,  
wherein the predetermined reference position is located in either one of opposite end  
portions of the shaft of the rotation roller.

14. (Currently amended) A sheet transport mechanism, comprising:  
a rotation roller;  
a plurality of driven rollers which are arranged parallel to an axis of the rotation roller;  
and  
a plurality of sheet transport guides, each guiding toward the rotation roller, a sheet to be  
transported between the rotation roller and the driven rollers, each of the sheet transport guides  
including a torsion coil spring having a coil portion fixed to a frame, where the coil portion has a  
first arm portion which is arranged along a path so as to guide a reverse face of the sheet and  
extends to and is attached to a respective rotation shaft of one of the driven rollers and the coil  
portion has a second arm extending to and fixed to the frame, wherein  
each of the sheet transport guides applies elastic force to one of the driven rollers so that  
each of the driven rollers is elastically biased toward the rotation roller, and  
each elastic force applied to each of the sheet transport guides is different from each other  
with distance from a predetermined reference position

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 14, wherein an end of the second arm extends away from the coil portion and the end of the second arm is fixed to the frame at a location different from a location of the coil portion.